Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A gearbox~~, particularly~~ for transmission systems in devices ~~(2)~~ for metering ~~granular and/or~~ materials ~~in powder form~~, comprising: a pair of shafts, ~~that is,~~ including a drive-input shaft ~~(5)~~ and a drive-output shaft ~~(6)~~, respectively, ~~there being~~ provided on the drive-output shaft ~~(6)~~ at least one pair of coaxial freewheels ~~(8)~~, on each of which an end of a respective linkage ~~(10)~~ carrying a movable fulcrum means is active, the opposite end of each linkage being driven with a reciprocating oscillatory motion about the fulcrum means by an eccentric device provided on the drive-input shaft ~~(5)~~ in order to convert the reciprocating oscillatory motion into an intermittent rotary motion of each freewheel ~~(8)~~ and ~~consequently~~ to bring about a rotary motion of the drive-output shaft ~~(6)~~ in a preselected direction of rotation, the drive-input shaft ~~(5) comprising~~ including at least one pair of cranks with eccentric pins, ~~(11)~~ and each linkage ~~(10) comprising~~ including a respective connecting-rod element ~~(13) substantially similar to a connecting rod~~ having a first end ~~(13a)~~ connected kinematically to the corresponding freewheel ~~(8)~~ and a second, opposite end ~~(13b)~~ articulated on the respective pin ~~(11)~~ of the crankshaft ~~(5)~~ with a capability for rotary and translational movement relative to the pin ~~(11)~~, the movable fulcrum means including~~comprising~~, for each connecting-rod element ~~(13)~~, a respective fulcrum pin ~~(18)~~, each fulcrum pin ~~(18)~~ being movable, in adjustable manner, between the ~~opposite ends (13a, 13b)~~ first end and second end of the connecting-rod element ~~(13)~~ so as to define different lever arms ~~(B1, B2)~~ between said ends and ~~consequently~~ to adjust ~~the~~ a transmission ratio between the drive-input shaft ~~(5)~~ and the drive output-shaft ~~(6)~~ of the gearbox, ~~characterized in that~~ and each fulcrum pin ~~(18)~~ has a first end ~~(18a)~~ restrained on a stationary structure of the gearbox and an opposite second end ~~(18b)~~ retrained on the corresponding connecting-rod element ~~(13)~~ to constitute the ~~centre~~ center of the rotation of said connecting-rod element during the reciprocating oscillatory motion relative to the drive-input shaft, said first end ~~(18a)~~ of the fulcrum pin ~~(18)~~ being guided slidably in a wall of a casing constituting ~~the~~ a gearbox housing ~~(3)~~ and the second end ~~(18b)~~ of said fulcrum pin being engaged rotatably and slidably in a seat ~~(21)~~ formed in the corresponding connecting-rod element ~~(13)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The gearbox according to ~~c~~claim 1 in which guide means are provided on each of the connecting-rod elements ~~(13)~~ for guiding the second connecting-rod end ~~(13b)~~ on the respective pin ~~(11)~~ of the crankshaft ~~(5)~~ during the eccentric rotary motion of the pins ~~(11)~~ relative to ~~the axis of~~ rotation ~~(X)~~ of the drive-input shaft ~~(5)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The gearbox according to ~~c~~claim 2 in which the guide means comprise, on each connecting-rod element ~~(13)~~, a respective elongate slot-like portion ~~(16)~~ which can be engaged slidably by the corresponding pin ~~(11)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The gearbox according to ~~C~~claim 3 in which the slot-like portion ~~(16)~~ is elongate in a direction transverse the ~~axis of~~ rotation ~~(X)~~ of the drive-input shaft ~~(5)~~ of the gearbox.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The gearbox according to ~~C~~claim 3 ~~or Claim 4~~ in which the slot-like portion ~~(16)~~ is open at the second end ~~(13b)~~ of the connecting-rod element ~~(13)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The gearbox according to ~~C~~claim 5 in which the open slot-like portion ~~(16)~~ is defined by a pair of opposed, parallel and spaced-apart walls ~~(16a, 16b)~~ between which the corresponding pin ~~(11)~~ of the drive-input crankshaft ~~(5)~~ is guided slidably.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The gearbox according to ~~C~~claim 6 in which at least one sliding block ~~(17)~~ is interposed between the walls ~~(16a, 16b)~~ of the slot ~~(16)~~ and the pin ~~(11)~~, the sliding block ~~(17)~~ having a first surface ~~(17a)~~ and a second surface ~~(17b)~~ which are in sliding contact with the walls of the slot ~~(16)~~ and with the pin ~~(11)~~, respectively.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The gearbox according to claim 1 ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ in which the eccentric pins ~~(11)~~ provided in the cranks of the drive-input shaft ~~(5)~~ are offset by 180° relative to the ~~axis of~~ rotation ~~(X)~~ of the shaft ~~(5)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The gearbox according to claim 1 ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ in which each of the freewheels ~~(8)~~ comprises an inner ring ~~(8a)~~ keyed to the drive-output shaft and an outer ring ~~(8b)~~ coaxial therewith and capable of rotating freely or with torque transmission, depending on the direction of relative rotation of the rings, each connecting-rod element ~~(13)~~ being articulated, at the first end ~~(13a)~~, to a collar portion ~~(9)~~ fitted on the outer ring ~~(8b)~~ and fixed for rotation therewith.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The gearbox according to ~~C~~claim 1 in which the second end ~~(18b)~~ of the fulcrum pin is guided in the seat ~~(21)~~ with the interposition of a sliding block ~~(21a)~~ engaged slidably in the seat ~~(21)~~ and coupled rotatably with the pin ~~(11)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The gearbox according to ~~C~~claim 1 ~~or Claim 10~~ in which the seat ~~(21)~~ extends from the first end ~~(13a)~~ of the connecting-rod towards the second, opposite end ~~(13b)~~ of the connecting-rod.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The gearbox according to ~~one or more of C~~claims ~~1, 10 and 11~~ in which actuator means are provided and are active on the fulcrum pins ~~(18)~~ in order to move the position of the fulcrum relative to the connecting rod in an adjustable manner correlated with ~~the~~ a preselected transmission ratio between the drive-input shaft ~~(5)~~ and the drive-output shaft ~~(6)~~ of the gearbox.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The gearbox according to ~~C~~claim 12 in which the actuator means comprise, for each fulcrum pin ~~(18)~~, a lever mechanism ~~(23)~~ a free end of which is fixed for rotation with a control shaft ~~(24)~~ and which is articulated on the fulcrum pin ~~(18)~~ with a capability for rotary/translational movement between the fulcrum pin ~~(18)~~ and the lever mechanism ~~(23)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The gearbox according to ~~C~~claim 13 in which each fulcrum pin ~~(18)~~ is restrained on the respective lever mechanism ~~(23)~~ with the interposition of a sliding block ~~(26)~~ engaged slidably in a seat ~~(27)~~ of the lever mechanism and coupled rotatably with the fulcrum pin ~~(18)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A metering device for the metered delivery of ~~granular and/or~~ materials ~~in powder form, particularly for machines for dispensing the said materials~~, comprising a gearbox formed in accordance with claim 1 ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ for controlling transmission to respective metering members.

16. (Currently Amended) A agricultural sowing machine comprising a metering device for the metered delivery of granular seed, formed in accordance with ~~C~~claim 15.

17. (New) The gearbox according to claim 1, wherein the gearbox is for transmission systems in devices for metering granular and/or materials in powder form.

18. (New) The metering device according to claim 15, wherein the metering device is for the metered delivery of granular and/or materials in powder form.